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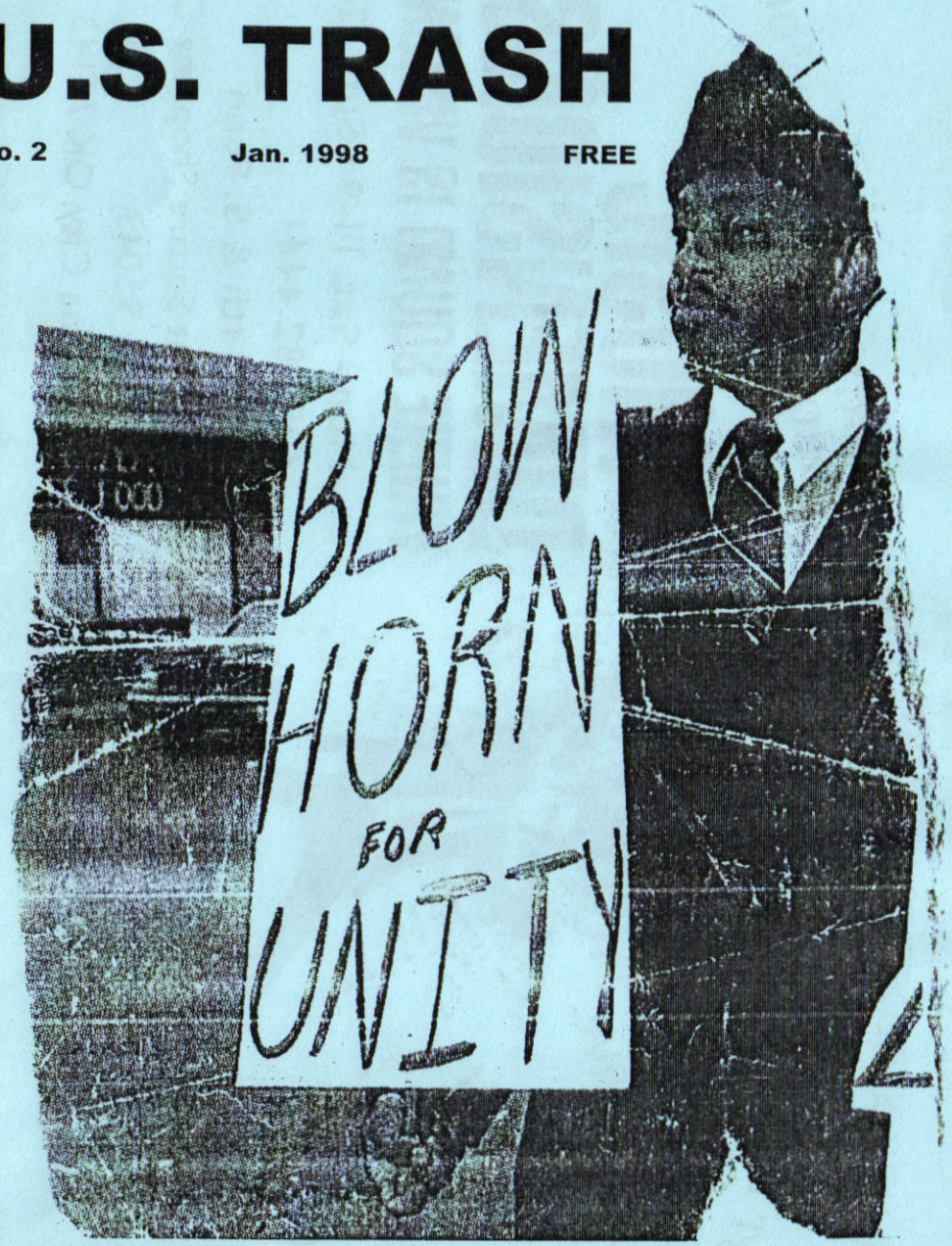
No. 2 Jan. 1998 FREE



Inside: VooDoo Glow Skulls discuss the three H's: Homophobia, Heroin, and Hickey. Plus the thoughts, opinions, and propaganda you've come to expect.

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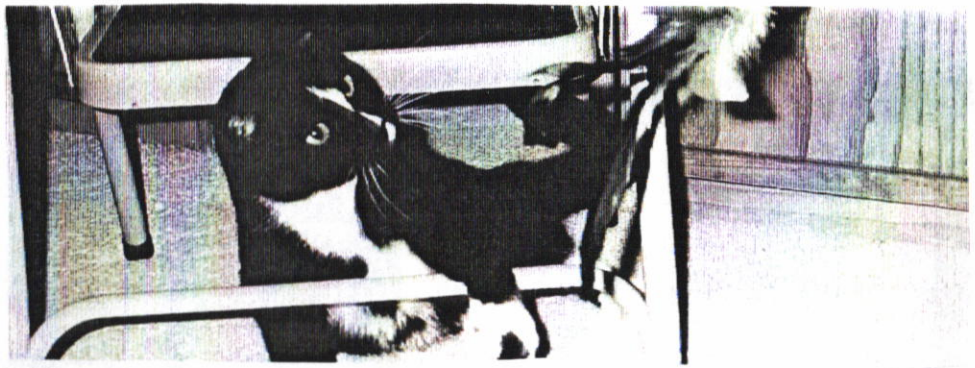
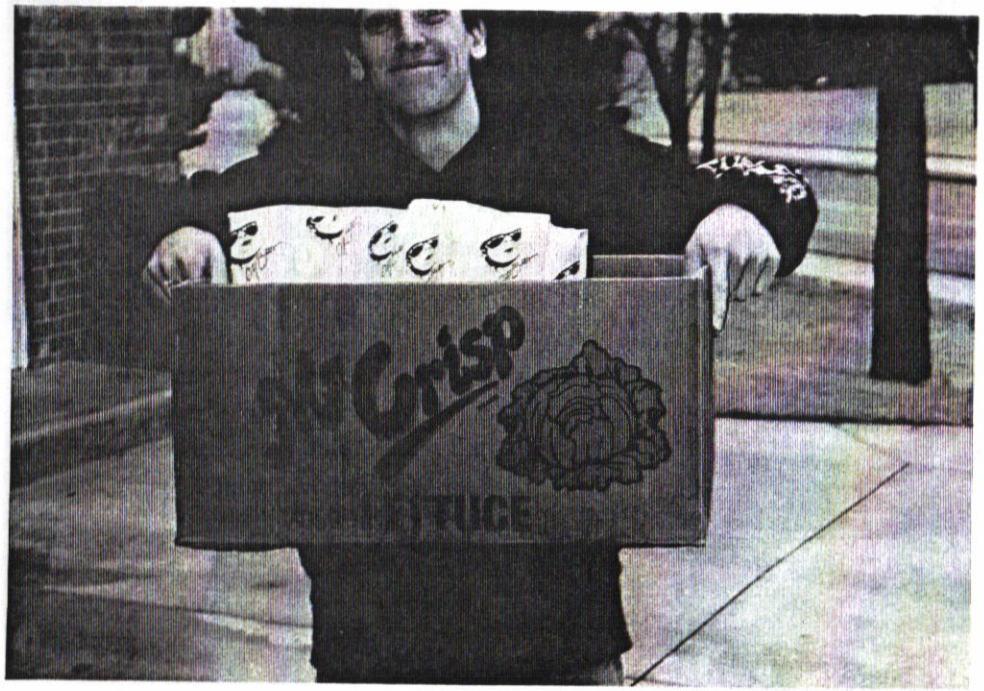
Well, another issue of U.S. Trash is finished, but not without many trials and tribulations in between. The most recent of which for myself, was the death of my Grandfather. He had been suffering from cancer for over a year (cigarettes) and finally lost his battle about five days ago. My Grandfather was one of the few people in my family who actually cared about me. I will miss him for a long, long time. Death sucks. Anyway, I hope you enjoyed the latest issue of U.S. Trash. We want the zine to be everyone's zine, like a forum for opinions if you will. So speak your mind, submit, or just write us letters. Until next time, have fun.





U.S. Trash #2
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Laborers: Mike, Matt

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Contributions: Last issue, we got a few letters and no contributions. We'd like some. If you have something you've written that's at least somewhat intelligent, send it in. All topics welcome.

Distribution: If you would like to help us distribute, get in touch. We'll send you as many copies as you request. All we ask is that you not sell them, just give them away.

Thanks: Allan, Jim, and Page

Jim and Page's shameless plug: Shop at Music Dimensions.

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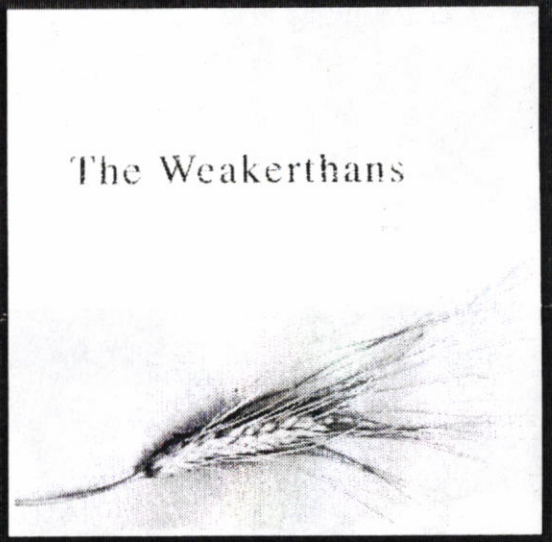
Letters- January 22, 1997

Dearest U.S. Trash guys,

First off lemme say that I enjoyed reading your zine. It was nice to see a zine filled with actual content. The 4th street cafe article was great. Everyone needs to keep their eyes open and expose more of these spiritual charlatans who adopt a lifestyle simply to swindle money from people who actually belong to that lifestyle. To all so-called "christian punks" I send out a big hearty FUCK YOU!!! Punk is, was and always will be in direct opposition to christianity and the bile that spews forth from the mouths of "men of god". Christianity mixes with punk about as well as diarrhea mixes with soda. I'll stop right there because I feel a full-blown anti-christian rant coming on and I want to save my ranting energy for the next paragraph.

Now it's time for me complain. You guys need to show the author for each article, so I know who to berate when they come in the store. I want to direct this to whoever wrote the article entitled "Mindless Macho Brutality" Now while I agree that there are far too many idiots that hunt, they are not representative of hunters as a whole. These are just the guys that go about bragging about their exploits and making a lot of noise. For every one of those people I would bet there are ten responsible hunters whom you never hear about. The people that you describe are better known by another name; "poachers". "Hunters" buy a license, hunt only during season, take no more than the legal limit, eat the animals that they do kill, and wouldn't dream of going hunting with their faculties impaired by alcohol or any other substance. Real hunters have tremendous respect for nature and wildlife (believe it or not, but they probably care more than you do). Hunters help to control the population of animals who have lost most of their natural predators, and can easily fall victim to starvation and disease due to overpopulation of these animals in the wild. Granted I'm speaking of the United States where we have laws which regulate hunting, and people who keep a constant eye on wildlife populations to make certain that a species isn't being overhunted. Now, while I understand that this argument may not satisfy you on the emotional level, you must also ask yourself if you would be willing to re-establish predator populations to a level sufficient to control game populations, thereby putting farmers livestock in danger, as well as cute little domestic dog and cats. I am enclosing an article on soaring deer populations, and the amount of damage and death that rampant deer populations are causing. In fact, deer cause more deaths in the U.S. every year than any other animal (except humans). It's gotten so bad in Bloomington, Minn., that the SWAT team is sniping deer in public parks. Anyway, enough fucking griping. Hell, I don't even hunt anymore (mainly because it's not nearly as easy as you seem to think), but I get tired of

I'd rather be on some desolate beach. We went to Bellows. It was an Air Force base with one of the prettiest beaches known to man. While she was parking, she ran into a tree and broke her taillight. But we didn't let it get to us and we walked out to the beach. The sand was warm and soft and the water was a transparent teal color. We laid on the beach and talked for a couple of hours. Then we walked for a while on the sand to go look at the snapping turtles on the rocks. I guess the turtles didn't feel like hanging out today. They were probably swimming around talking with girls they like. We made our way back to our previous spot and sat down on a picnic table. But who would want to sit on a table when there are dozens of trees waiting to be climbed. So we continued our conversation in the tree. We listened to Green Day during the drive home, not really talking to each other but singing along.



From the emaciated little guy who used to be in (set phasers to "name-drop") *PROPAGANDHI* and wrote/sang jems like "Anchorless", "Showdown", "Gifts" and, as you know, "Ska Sucks"– comes 12 new songs of poetry-positive revolutionary melancholia! Jawbreaker meet the Smoking Popes at an Audre Lorde book-signing!

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"Totally great, political hardcore...fast, tight, and tinged with dub influences...real fucking ska-punk...." –Stylus Magazine

by Kirk

1/8/98

I woke up this morning and didn't put any music on. Usually I start the morning with some music to get me going, but today I just didn't care. It was just another day waking up at 6:30 to go to work, another long day of answering phones and doing computer work. I have lots of time to think at work. I think about life, how lonely I am, what I'm going to do after work, etc...

New Years Eve we went to a party. They're the same every time (if you don't drink). We walked in and heard Crass supplying the background music and cigarette smoke quietly taking over our air supply. There were lots of people there. Some I knew, some I didn't want to know. Many were "friends" of mine. But really they're friends of my friends. I wouldn't call them to go hang out, and they wouldn't call me. But at a party we could always talk to each other.

We walked around saying our hello's and other various greetings to people for a couple of minutes. Andy was talking to some old friends I didn't know so I sat down to play video games with this girl I like. We had hung out a couple of times but I was always just "best friends" with her. I think that is her polite display of rejection. After the game got boring I sat down on the couch and watched people indulge themselves in alcohol. I was still thinking about that girl a lot. I had bonded with her one night months ago. Again the scene was a party. She was having boyfriend trouble and I had no interest to stay at the party. We walked around in the cold, she told me what was going on and I took it all in and gave suggestions when I could. She always came to me with her problems, usually pertaining to boyfriends. Because she was always telling me about her boyfriend, I never thought I would ever really have a chance with her, but I was beginning to like her. Every weekend I looked forward to seeing her at the local hangout. We would hug and talk, but then we would go our separate ways. She would go hang out with her boyfriend, and I would find a nice place to think things over.

1/9/98

The man said he was headed to California; L.A. to be exact. We were on our way back to our broken down car on the highway. Our paths crossed and we wished him good luck, and he did the same to us. I turned my back and looked at him. He was sitting on his army green duffel bag, as if waiting for a ride, but no one was coming. We caught a ride to the car and took what we needed for our stay in this town, which should only be one more night. We caught a ride back into town and stayed the night at a motel. The next morning the man was gone. As we walked to the car again, I couldn't help but wish I was headed to California. Just give up my job, education, and friends and start walking to California. That would be quite an adventure. But reality came back to my head and chased those dreams away. But all it takes is one step to begin a journey.

1/9/98

Sumer and I decided to skip school on a particularly nice Hawaiian day. Even though I'd be missing big exams, I still went. I think I just needed a vacation from school. We sneak out to her car and drive right by the "security" guard watching the parking lot. We were trying to decide what beach to go to. She was more of a Waikiki type person and

hearing people grouping all hunters together when it's a small minority who behave the way you describe.

Anyway, thanks for the ad for the store. But you forgot to mention that every one of the CD's and records that you reviewed (by the way, good review section) are available at Music Dimensions! (God I'm a slut for shameless self promotion.) Keep up the good work, keep your noses clean, and above all, keep worshipping Satan - that big red guy in the dirt -.

Page Lepak
Music Dimensions

p.s. Don't fuckin' misspell my name again!!!

Dear Page,

Thanks for the kind words about UST. The "Mindless Macho Brutality" article was written by me. I had not wanted to run it, but thanks to me screwing up the layout, we needed a few last second additions so we went ahead and put it in there. The reason I wasn't too proud of it was: a. I made sweeping generalizations about a huge group of people based on a few adolesent morons. and b. I didn't back up my opinions with any sort of factual information. You'll find a more intelligent piece about hunting in this issue of U.S. Trash. It discusses the topics which you bring up in your letter. I apologize to you and anyone else who might have been offended by the article in question.-Matt

THE BATTLE OF 4TH ST. IS OVER!

(AND LET'S JUST SAY GOD WASN'T THE VICTOR)

When I first heard the news I was dumbfounded. Could it really be? Could my hopes and dreams have finally been realized? Could that horrid place of bullshit propaganda and religious dogma finally be gone? Yes! Rejoice! The 4th Street is closed! (celebration and joy)

The 4th Street Basement Café represented (perhaps helped govern) the recent corruption of the OKC punk scene with Christianity. Bands like Leisure Live Wires, the Shrubs, and Jonny-5 starting popping up all over the place, arriving just in time to "save" our dwindling scene with their right-wing morality. The worst part of all was that all the punks seemed to be falling into their trap. I'd drive by and see our beloved gutters hanging out in the parking lot, not realizing that, though it may have seemed like just another place to drink, it was actually a moderately concealed breeding ground for brainwashed Jesus groupies. I mean, c'mon, it was in the basement of a church for fuck's sake. I and a few of my friends opted to boycott the place, but not many seemed eager to follow. In retrospect, though, I think that was a good thing.

You may be asking why I, who so avidly despised everything the 4th St. stood for, would consider it good that many continued to take heed within it's walls. I'll answer that with a question: What always seems to happen to an establishment when punks are involved? It gets shut down. It's the natural instinct of punks to fuck shit up wherever they go and the 4th St. was no exception. Weekly brawls, open drug and alcohol use, calls to the police, and even excessive water damage due to busted pipes all were staples of the presence of our local punks. If it wasn't for the irreverent escapades of those rambunctious hell raisers, that places would still be open, open to corrupt and reiterate bullshit onto impressionable minds.

So I'm taking this chance to say thank you. Thank you to every punk who remained true to his/her calling and fucked up everything in sight. Fuck you 4th Street. But thank you punks. --MIKE

MUMIA ABU-JAMAL / MAN IS THE BASTARD split CD
Spoken word from Mumia that is interesting and informative. The best part about this is the extensive information about Mumia in the CD booklet. (Elsewhere in the zine, I will relay a good portion of that information to you.) Man is the Bastard manages to captivate me. They are an enigma, and I will be the first to admit that I do not think that I fully understand them. Of their 4 tracks, only three are actual songs. The music has its moments, but mostly just plods along. (Alternative Tentacles)-Matt

NOBODYS "V.M.L." 7"
Ten classic tracks played live with no time to even think between songs. One fruity blast of punk rock after another that, if you're not a fan, probably comes off sounding like a shitty live album. It is, but I'm a fan so I don't care. (V.M.L. / POB 183 / Franklin Park, IL / 60131-0183)-Mike

NOFX "All Of Me" 7"
The new novelty 7" to accompany their new full length. Both songs are easily attainable (the a-side is on the new Fat comp, and the b-side from the new LP). But if you're a collector nerd (like myself) you will see the joy in this release. Greenish vinyl. Limited to 8,000 (I guess that's small for NOFX). (Fat Wreck Chords / POB 193690 / San Francisco, CA 94119-3690)-Mike

DAVE PARASITE "Back to Demo (1989-1991) 2x7"
I was quite taken aback by this record. 2 7"s (one red, one green) of fantastic pop punk that's far better than I ever expected. Maybe it's the raw sound. It was recorded in Dave's basement with him playing all the instruments. Keep this stuff coming, I want more. (Ampop / POB 2271 / San Rafael, CA 94912)-Mike

PROPAGANDHI "Curse of the MTV Punks" CD
This is a bootleg. It contains a live recording in front of a shitty crowd at Gilman St. and the tracks from the split 10" with I Spy. I'm not real big on this live album crap, but this is Propagandhi! Good sound quality and the classic 10" tracks. This is somewhat of a novelty item, I suppose. I guess it's neat for fans like myself. (No address)-Matt

MARKEY RAMONE AND THE INTRUDERS S/T CD
If you liked the songs "Have a Nice Day" and "Anxiety" by the Ramones, then you'll like this (the songs are penned by the same people). It's decent, but definitely nothing to rave about. (Thirsty Ear / 274 Madison Ave / Suite 804 / NYC, NY 10016)-Mike

SCREECHING WEASEL S/T CD
Well here it is, the first Screeching Weasel album complete with long hair and embarrassing songs. Whenever I heard the bootlegs of this I always thought it sucked. But, I don't know, maybe the legitimacy of this CD has altered some chemicals in my brain because I actually like this now. It's nothing glorious and gives virtually no hint of what this band would become, but it's still fun hardcore punk that should be given a chance (at least for a laugh). There's also a dozen bonus tracks. (V.M.L. / POB 183 / Franklin Park, IL 60131-0183)-Mike

SNUFF "Potatoes and Melons Wholesale Prices Straight from the Lock Up" CD
Short, sweet, and great in that Snuff fashion. Lots of gay horns and a singing drummer. Purchase highly encouraged. (Fat Wreck Chords / POB 193690 / San Francisco, CA 94119-3690)-Mike

SPAZZ "La Revancha" LP
This is good depending on what kind of mood you're in. Sometimes I love it. Sometimes it gives me a severe migraine. Quick grindcore songs, a few of which have so many time changes that listening to it makes you feel like you're on a tilt-a-whirl. I'd have to say overall, this record is definitely homosexual, if for no reason other than all the songs about Pro Wrestling. (Sound Pollution)-Matt

TEEN IDOLS "V.M.L." 7"
Definitely one of the better V.M.L.s. Good sound quality, good songs, and good harmonies. (V.M.L. / POB 183 / Franklin Park, IL 60131-0183)-Mike

VINDICTIVES / SLOPPY SECONDS split 7"
The Vindictives may have broken up, but that doesn't mean they'll stop rehashing previously released songs. Their song, "Pervert At Large" (by Ben Weasel), was originally on the CD version of Party Time for Assholes. It's a good song that takes a few listens to grab you, but once it does you'll never want Joey Vindictive's disturbingly whinny vocals to stop. The Sloppy Seconds side is no second rate punk rock either. This is one of the best songs I've heard in along time. I was hooked the instant my needle hit the jiz white vinyl. This record is absolutely necessary. (V.M.L. / POB 183 / Franklin Park, IL 60131-0183)-Mike

V/A "Physical Fatness - Fat Music Vol. III"
18 more blasts from the best comp series ever. Not quite to the par of it's predecessors, but no limp noodle itself. More unreleased tracks this time than usual (most notably Lagwagon and Tilt). And a new Propagandhi song! Joy. And at $3.98, shame on anyone who tries to use "I can't afford it" as an excuse. (Fat Wreck Chords / POB 193690 / San Francisco, CA 94119)-Mike

You can find most of these and thousands of other CDs, tapes, vinyl, videos, and zines at
MUSIC DIMENSIONS.
The best darn records shop in OKC. (HELP! They have a gun to my head as I write this!)

Music Reviews

Important note: I get sick of people using words like "gay" and "homo" as derogatory terms. For example, someone would say, "That book is gay." Obviously, a book can't be gay. But, when I notify people of their error in misusing such words, they don't listen. Even my "friends" say, "Oh, there's Mr. P.C. Matt again! He really thinks he's cool doesn't he?" People don't seem to understand that I am serious. So, since no one listens, I've decided to just use words like gay and homosexual as complimentary terms. I'm hoping it will start catching on. So when I say, "This record is gay," that means it's good. Get it?

ACME "...to reduce the choir to one soloist" LP
Painful vocals and powerful music make this a great release. As the record goes on, the recording quality seems to deplete for some reason. But, the first few tracks will knock you right on your ass. Definitely, a worthwhile record. (Edison Recordings / POB 42586 / Philadelphia, PA 19101-2586)-Matt

ALL / JUDGE NOTHING split 7"
I'm bias to the homosexuality of ALL. I've loved them for so long so that, though I know this song sucks, I still enjoy it much. As for Judge Nothing, after hearing the first song on their side I was all geared up to hate the second one as much, but I actually kind of enjoy it. Alterna-pop fun. (Thick Records / 916 N. Damen Ave. / Chicago, IL 60622)-Mike

BLINK 182 "I Won't Be Home For Christmas" CD
One song on this CD single in that typical Blink fashion (which I enjoy). If you like them, you'll like this. If you hate them, keep moving, there is nothing to see here. (Some dumb major)-Mike

CAPITALIST CASUALTIES S/T CD
74 songs from these gay hardcore veterans. The songs run about a minute each and there's enough variety in sound between them to keep your attention. Some of the songs are live. Recommended. (Slap-A-Ham / POB 420843 / San Francisco, CA 94142-0843)-Matt

CLEVELAND BOUND DEATH SENTENCE 7"
I'm in love with this record. Aaron Cometbus and Co. again deliver a new batch of songs for me to wear my needle out on. It's got the handwriting and art you expect, so how can you go wrong? (THD / POB 18661 / Minneapolis, MN 55418)-Mike

DREAD / ANTI-FLAG split 12" pic disc
Two great punk bands lay down an onslaught of gay tunes that make you wanna fuckshitup. Great record. Cool picture disc. (Clearview / 2157 Pueblo Drive / Garland, TX 75040)-Mike

ECONOCHRIST S/T 2CD
There's a lot here to listen to. 41 songs, and they aren't those little one minute ones either. Old school hardcore, done with unmistakably homosexual passion. There's one thing that sets them apart from a lot of other bands-they can actually play their instruments! Very refreshing! (Ebullition / POB 680 / Goleta, CA 93116)-Matt

HICKEY "Various States of Disrepair" CD
One of the best bands ever. Dare I call them "the Pink Floyd of Punk Rock"? I do think so. This CD is the apex of originality and the pinnacle of enjoyment. Awkward drum beats, occasional metal riffs, and a sneaking suspicion that these guys frequently ingest narcotics. Oh well, nobody's perfect I suppose. Did somebody say gay? (Poverty Records / 915 Cole / Box 115 / San Francisco, CA 94117)-Matt

HIS HERO IS GONE "Monuments to Thieves" CD
Rapidly emerging as one of my favorite bands. This new album fails to disappoint. Just as good as the last effort, maybe a little better. The first and sixth songs on here might just be better than anything they've ever done. This is great hardcore that I think everyone can enjoy. Blatantly homosexual. (Prank / POB 410892 / San Francisco, CA 94141-0892)-Matt

IN/HUMANITY "History Behind The Mystery" CD
This is good, because it's In/Humanity, of course. It's not as gay as the first album, but it still rips. More emo-like lyrics than on Nutty Ant-Christ. With the exception of one really long noise track (which starts out pretty good), this is a nice release. It may be difficult to find. (HG Fact / 401 Hongo-M / 2-36-2 Yayoi-Cho / Nakan-Ko, Tokyo 164 Japan)-Matt

Heredity and Homosexuality

DNA, Chromosomes, and Scientific Propaganda

Is homosexuality hereditary? Some people believe it to be determined by a persons upbringing, others believe homosexuality is determined at birth. In the last issue, I stated that scientists have found proof that homosexuality is determined at birth. While it is true that scientists have made ground breaking research in establishing a bond between homosexuality and heredity, there is still much debate over the subject.

Scientists say there is no gene for homosexuality, but there is a 95.5 percent certainty that a gene or genes for a "predisposition to homosexuality" exist near the long arm of the X chromosome. One must consider, homosexuality is not like having blue eyes or brown hair, if it is inherited by a person. It is still that person's choice whether or not to be homosexual. In contrast, someone who did not inherit the gene may decide they would like to be homosexual as well. So when scientists say there is no gene for homosexuality, but there is probably a gene for a predisposition to homosexuality, it is essentially, scientifically correct double-talk. *Of course* there can not be a gene that *forces* someone to be homosexual, in the end it is the person's choice. But, scientists have found a gene that "influences sexual orientation without necessarily determining it."

These breakthroughs of DNA research are largely because of a recent 26-nation, $2-billion dollar program whose goal is to "map the entire human genome." Even prior to this, scientists were searching for clues in linking homosexuality and heredity. Simon Le Day, of the Salk Institute for Biological Studies has been researching the possibity for years. His research has suggested a link between homosexuality and heredity. Le Day also claims that differences exist between homosexuals and heterosexuals at the base of the brain.

Despite these major breakthroughs, many people still consider homosexuality to be something that is determined by a person's upbringing. For some people, I guess scientific evidence just isn't enough.--Matt

A picture can mean a thousand words that you didn't even mean to say.

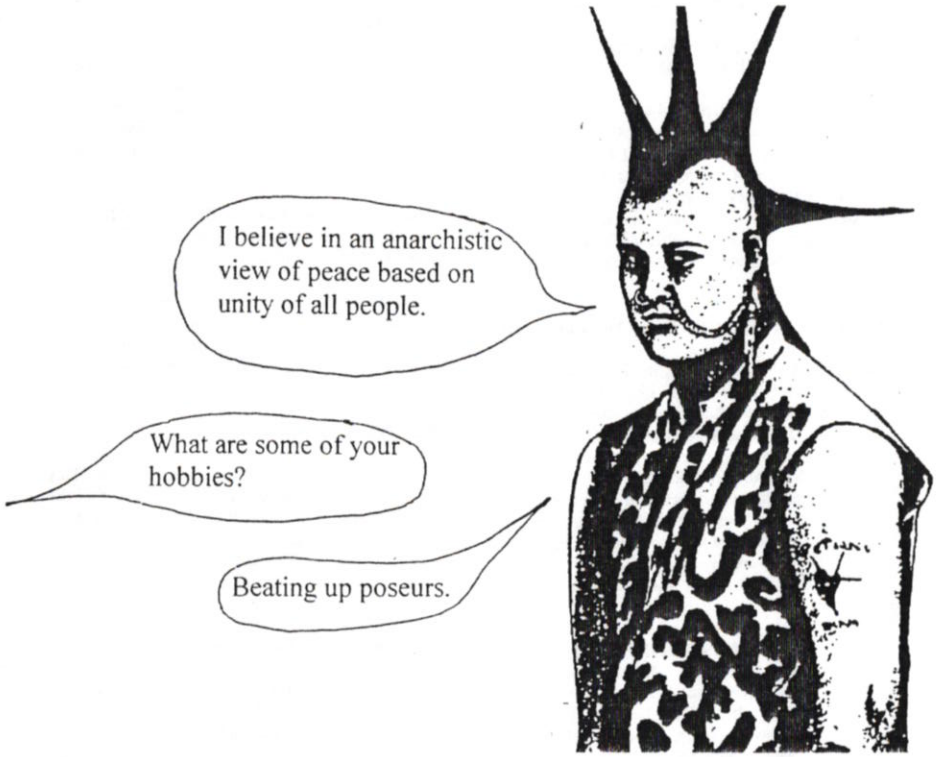
You jump to conclusions, I jump to conclusions, we all have jumped to conclusions at one time or another. I got word of a few people jumping to conclusions about the picture on the final page of our last issue. The guy happened to be wearing a military uniform and since we wrote "U.S. Trash" over it, apparently we're ripping him and everyone else in the military. This is news to me. I guess we're calling all elves trash, too since there's a picture of one on the cover with U.S. Trash written above it. The original idea for the cover was a picture of us standing next to a trash can that says U.S. Trash on it. I guess we'd be calling ourselves trash then? I don't quite see where logic fits into this equation.

Since some people have already judged our entire zine by this one photo, I thought I might at least take time to explain it- We thought the guy looked funny, I wrote U.S. Trash on the picture because we were thinking about maybe using it as the cover. The end. No conspiracy to ridicule the military. Just a funny looking picture. If I had wanted to express my views about the military, I would have written about it. (and I do write about it briefly in this issue). After all, look to the right of this highly offensive picture and what do you find? An entire page dedicated to anti-sloganeering! So why would I use a slogan and picture to express my views on the military? Don't be afraid to actually *read* the zine before you decide what you think of it. Sometimes those words we cram in between all the pictures of people making obscene gestures actually have something to say.--Matt

After the match was over we had two winners but only one title belt. Should the Board of Directors give the title belt to Hogan who technically had Sting in a lock or should they give it to Sting who also pinned Hogan but knocked out the ref as a result. As you can see this is a very difficult decision. The Board of Directors announced in a press conference Thursday that neither would receive the belt infuriating both Sting and the NWO.

I have concluded that this was the single most important match of 1997 for two reasons. First off it was a battle between two of professional wrestling's most popular and fearsome wrestlers and has been demanded by fans for a long time. Most importantly it has marked the end of the NWO as a friendly faction and has turned them into the true "bad guys." Before this match the NWO tried to come off as "friends of the people," but now they insult the crowd and are constantly boo'ed. They have forced their fans to turn away from them. The 1997 Sting vs. Hogan match marked a turning point for professional wrestling and we can only wait and see what the aftermath of this match will be in 1998.

BY MATT #2



Sting Vs. Hollywood Hogan - Most Influential Match of 1997

On Monday December 29th possibly one of the most exciting and important wrestling matches went down - Sting vs. Hollywood Hogan, WCW vs. NWO, Good vs. Evil. The small yet violent faction of WCW named the NWO finally had a chance to prove itself in a one on one no-holds-barred match verse their eternal enemy Sting. The stakes for this match were immense. The WCW World Championship Belt - the highest honor in WCW wrestling.

First let me present some background information for the match. Sting was once a member of the NWO a while back but dropped out after only a few days for reasons known only by Sting. Ever since that day the NWO has hated Sting and has only wished malice upon him. Every so often you will see Sting show up and beat the crap out of the entire NWO (yes, all of them) in a giant knock out brawl. Finally the NWO had had enough of everything and the prominent leader Hollywood Hogan (formerly known as Hulk Hogan) challenged Sting to a match. At first Sting was reluctant but after continual harassment by the NWO he caved in and accepted Hogan's challenge.

On Saturday 27th Hogan fought Sting in a pay-per-view match with Sting prevailing as the victor. This is where the real story starts. Only two days later Hollywood Hogan challenged Sting to a rematch on Monday Night Nitro and the greatest match of 1997 happened. For the first 10 or so minutes Hogan and Sting were at it fighting and wearing each other down. Finally both were so tired that they were having a hard time standing. Sting managed to throw Hogan against the rope and prepared for a Flying Scorpion meanwhile the ref went up to check on Hogan to make sure he was fit to continue on. Sting went ahead with his Flying Scorpion executing it with great precision and cunning not only knocking out Hogan but also the ref. While the ref was down Sting performed his infamous finishing move the Scorpion Death Lock for well over 3 counts. After letting go of Hogan and soaking in his victory Sting was taken down by Hogan and put in a hold all while the ref was still down. A crooked ref who favors the NWO came up on the floor and counted off three counts pronouncing Hogan as the winner. About this time the real ref regained conscience right as Sting breaks free of Hogan and again puts him in his Scorpion Death Lock. The ref counts three and declares Sting as the winner not knowing about the other ref professing that Hogan was the winner.

College, Love, and Spoons

College is full of fascinating and strange people. There are those who go around ranting about philosophy, and those who see bureaucracy as the devil's tool, but my favorite of all these is a girl by the name of Rikki who steals spoons.

It all started on a sunny September day in the school cafeteria. I was eating, talking to friends, basically having a good time when all of the sudden I see a girl stick a spoon in her pocket. Of course this struck me as strange so I asked why she took the spoon. Rikki explained to me that it was all a matter of principle. Sneaking silverware past the cafeteria door worker was a major power trip for her. With each spoon stolen anther victory has been achieved against the structured cafeteria system and the students are closer to defeating the tyrannical bindings of the school-lunch program.

Apparently stealing spoons was a family pastime started by her older brother. Rikki's older brother had a record of stealing 64 spoons at one time. 64 spoons!!! How do you steal 64 spoons? Book bags aren't allowed in the cafeteria so he had to stick every single spoon in some pocket or other orifice.

Once I asked Rikki what she did with all the spoons that had been acquired by her and her brother. Rikki explained to me that spoons have many uses such as but not limited to arts and crafts, room decor, and birthday gifts. Using spoons as birthday gifts confused me so I inquired further into it. According to Rikki the perfect compliment to a birthday card is a spoon. Whenever one of her friends have a birthday she sends them a nice sweet card and a spoon. At first receiving a spoon might sound like a nice gesture but in actuality Rikki will give you a spoon anytime so it's not a big deal.

Stealing spoons isn't Rikki's only strange tendency. Our cafeteria is above our student union and is decorated with all sorts of odd and phony art. After dinner one night I was walking down the stairs only to find Rikki jumping up and down trying to grab a clay vase from a high shelf. When Rikki caught hold of this vase her and her friend took it outside and threw it against a brick wall. "Why did you do that!?!?" I shouted with confusion. Rikki then replied, "I wanted to see what was inside of it." What? The vase was completely closed in so nothing could have been inside. If you ask me Rikki was just looking for some good ol' fashion mischief and destruction which is totally cool with me.

Rikki is one of the coolest people I've met in this crazy life. In a world full of trends and fads it brings joy to my heart to find someone who dares to be different. So to you Rikki, love of my life, keep stealing spoons and as The Toasters said, "Don't let the bastards grind you down."

by Matt Number Two

The Press and the Military-
Are you getting the whole story?

Beginning with the U.S. invasion of Grenada in 1983, the Pentagon has limited the amount of press coverage for such military events. While the military would lead us to believe that they are merely trying to protect national security, it has more to do with withholding information and shaping public opinion. It's part of the way that Washington plans to shake us of what they call "the Vietnam Syndrome." Writer Gerry O'Sullivan translated the Vietnam syndrome as, "Potential American unwillingness to let the military kill as many people as it wants." In many cases, the press is prohibited to enter such warzone areas until after battle is over and the military has had a chance to "clean things up."

Take the case of the Grenada invasion of 1983, for instance. Reporters were kept at bay while 6,000 U.S. troops stormed the island. It was an attempt to return Grenada to capitalism after a violent uprising within the country's government. U.S. media deception and public relations campaigns seemed to work, which showed in approval polls back in the United States. Chances are, if the American public had known the whole story, they wouldn't have been so supportive of Reagan's move to invade Grenada. Grenadan troops had no chance to hold their own against more heavily armed U.S. soldiers. To this day, no one has been able to give a reliable estimate of how many Grenadans were killed.

This is because Reagan ordered a press "blackout." This only allowed the press on the scene after "mop-up" activities had taken place, which left the press to relay clean, non-violent images back to the States. Former army intelligence officers were quoted as saying "What really happened in Grenada was a case study in military incompetence and poor execution." A prime example of military incompetence is the fact that, of the 18 U.S. casualties in Grenada, 14 were victims of friendly fire or accidents. Surprising to some, America's beloved war hero Norman Schwarzkopf led this display of incompetence and aided in withholding the truth from the American public. To this day, no one knows how many Grenadans were killed. No one knows many innocent people were gunned down by U.S. troops. Or maybe we should say, the American public doesn't know. I'm willing to bet Reagan and Schwarzkopf have a vague idea of how many died.

The U.S. invasion of Panama in 1989 took press censoring a bit further. This time a Spanish photographer was gunned down by U.S. troops because they didn't like what pictures he was taking. President George Bush ordered the invasion this time. Once again, the invasion was quick and the press were kept hidden away until the heaviest action was already finished. Press were not allowed to observe the attack on El Chorillo, an extremly poor neighborhood in Panama City. 300 civilians were killed in that attack, some were burned alive in their own homes. The media

also have turned in no test results regarding any trace of gun powder on Mumia's hands or determined whether or not the gun had been fired recently. The police either did not perform these common test procedures, or they covered up any results they found from them.

Mumia was denied the right to represent himself. The judge's reason for not letting Mumia represent himself was that his dreadlocked hair would make the jurors feel nervous. He was assigned by the state to be defended by a "reluctant incompetant" who did not have adequate time to prepare for the trial. That lawyer has since filed an affadavit in Mumia's support, which details his deliquencies in defending Mumia. The DA who prosecuted Mumia was later reprimanded for withholding evidence in another case. The worst aspect of the entire case was the judge. Judge Albert F. Sabo has sentanced more men to die than any other sitting judge in the United States. Of the 31 men he has sentanced to death, only 2 have been white.

Sabo is also a member of the Fraternal Order of Police, a group which is actively lobbying for Mumia's execution. Despite this obvious bias, he has refused to step down from the case. A fellow judge once called Sabo's courtroom a "vacation for prosecutors" because of his bias towards convictions. By the end of the case, Sabo had all the black jurors removed except for one. Mumia's history with the Black Panther party and radical views were paraded in court as proof that he would kill a police officer, which is a direct violation of first amendment rights. Mumia, a respectable, award-winning journalist with no criminal record, was made to look like a cold-blooded murderer.

So far Mumia has had no appeal in the case. He has been on death row for thirteen years. Mumia and his supporters only want a new trial, this time with a competent judge and an unbiased lawyer. Most recently, the governor of Pennsylvania signed a death warrant scheduling Mumia for execution on August 17, despite all the questions surrounding the case. And as if it isn't enough to put a person through the living hell that Mumia has lived for the past thirteen years, the same people who gave Mumia an extremly unjust trial are now taking away his freedom of speech. groups like the Fraternal Order of Police have prevented radio stations from airing a series of Mumia's commentaries. They also attempted to prevent the release of Mumia's book by slamming the publishing company for "supporting copkillers."

We must remember that there are many corrupt individuals in this nation. I hardly believe it is pure coincidince that so many of them seem to infiltrate our justice systems, police forces, and government. A fair trial should not be too much to ask for, in the land of the free.-Matt
(Check out the new Profane Existence book, the Man Is The Bastard/ Mumia Abu-Jamal CD (on Alternative Tentacles), and Terry Bisson's web page (http://www.sff.net/people/tbisson/MUMIA.html), all of which served as my sources for this article.

Mumia Abu-Jamal - United States Political Prisoner

I'm not trying to jump on the "I support Mumia" bandwagon (if there is such a thing), I just found the information in the Man Is The Bastard/Mumia CD to be very interesting. I did a little additional research and I thought I'd relay that information to you. Prior to my purchase of the CD, I knew nearly nothing about him, except that he had quite a following of people calling for his release from prison. Now I know why. Philadelphia police wanted Mumia gone any way possible. He was vocal in the radical civil rights group, MOVE and the Philadelphia Inquirer called him "an eloquent activist not afraid to raise his voice." Since they couldn't silence Mumia's voice with a bullet, they tried to in the courtroom.

Mumia was a Minister of Information for the Black Panther party at age 15. He also wrote for the group's national newspaper. After the Black Panther party ended due to extensive FBI harrassment, Mumia went into radio broadcasting. In ten years time, he had made a name for himself as one of the top radio personalities. Still, through everything he achieved, Mumia's views were still considered radical. In a few cases, his views and his support of the MOVE group caused him to lose his work at the radio stations. Eventually, Mumia was forced to get a second job as a taxi driver in order to support his family. That is when the trouble began.

One night while driving his cab, Mumia saw his brother on the sidewalk being beaten by the police. Mumia stopped his cab and went to intervene in the situation. What happened next is still uncertain. During the course of the events, Mumia was shot in the chest, and a police officer was shot and killed. About a half year later, Mumia was convicted of the murder and sentanced to death row, where he still sits to this day. The trial in June of 1982 was controversial, but few in power seemed to dispute his conviction, despite the prosecutors' lack of evidence.

Four different witnesses saw a man running from the scene after the gunshots. Remember, Mumia was unable to run very far because he was shot, as well. One witness changed his story to coincide with the case against Mumia, but only six months later, after police interrogation. Another witness said she too was pressured by the police to change her story. A different witness said the police offered her immunity in another case if she would declare Mumia as the murderer. After she refused, the judge promptly ordered her testimony stricken from record. Yet another witness, says he filled out a report that said that Mumia was not the shooter and that the shooter escaped before police arrived, only to have his report ripped to shreds by the police. They threatened him with bodily harm unless he agreed to sign a false statement which said he saw nothing.

The police's investigation of the crime scene was a joke. Police claimed that bullets recovered from the scene and from the officer's body were too broken and shattered to even determine their caliber. The police also "lost" a large piece of one of the bullets. When the state medical examiner originally removed that bullet from the officer, he determined it to be a .44 caliber. Mumia's gun was .38 caliber. The police

regurgitated the claims by the Pentagon that only 202 civilians and 50 Panamanian soldiers were killed in the entire invasion. This was despite estimates from other sources that were as high as 4,000 civilian deaths. Eight years ago,the U.N. voted 75 to 20 to condemn the U.S. invasion of Panama as a flagrant violation of international law. You probably don't remember hearing about it on TV or in the paper, and for what reason? Most news media knowingly ignored it. Once again, the American public is deprived of the truth by the same media that is supposed to be an objective source for information.

During the Gulf War, the governments' media blocking techniques were once again were put into use. Saddam Hussein had been an ally of the U.S. for over a decade. It was during this time that he murdered over 150,000 Iranians and about 13,000 of his own citizens. It wasn't until oil was involved that the U.S. decided to end their friendship with Hussein and send troops into the Middle East. Of course, they knew very well that a war over oil would not be accepted with open arms by the public. That is when the Pentagon hired outside public relations groups to put a positive spin on the U.S. involvment in the dispute. Unlike Grenada and Panama, Hussein had used weapons and aid given to him (and who gave him most of these weapons? The United States) to stockpile an army that couldn't be destroyed and covered up over the course of a weekend. This war required major media manipulation.

Photos and film were seized from reporters, many of whom would have their press credentials revoked. Reporters, whose jobs are to give an objective look on the situation, soon became cheerleaders for the U.S. as the military procedded to raid Baghdad with bombs and missles, claiming many innocent peoples' lives. A single "smart bomb" killed 500 civilians in a bomb shelter. Reporters somehow blamed this particular U.S. massacre on Saddam Hussein. They didn't want to report to the public that the smart bombs that they've been drooling over for weeks only successfully reach their target 60 percent of the time. Free press jumps on the opportunity to portray Saddam Hussein as a war criminal, and rightly so. But, where was this free press over the previous decade, during which Hussein murdered hundreds of thousands of people? Now that the cost of cheap oil is involved, the U.S. decides to *finally* take action against Hussein. Unfortuantly, the action they take kills thousands more innocent people. Throughout the slaughter, the press cheers for the U.S. like it's a football team, making sure to downplay the murder of innocent civilians to the American public.

The "free press" in America has been bought by our government. It is a fact that the government has hired outside public relations groups to con the American public. It seems to me, the day your government tries to fool you, is the day that they no longer represent you.--Matt -"Toxic Sludge is Good For You" is a highly informative book with a silly name. You need to buy it. I used quite a bit of information from it (as well as a few other sources) for this article.

Shitty Zine of the Month
U.S. Trash #1

I can't believe this self-indulgent piece of crap! There's no page numbers, the writers hardly ever sign their names to anything, and there's a huge white space on the table of contents page! The first writing enourages people to scam Columbia House. Who in their right mind would do that to such a respectable company? If it wasn't for Columbia House, I would have had to pay 17 dollars each for all my Sublime and No Doubt CD's. Then they encourage people to boycott 4th Street. These guys are nuts, if it wasn't for 4th Street, I would have never gotten to see the Leisure Live Wires before they broke up! I still pray every night that they get back together. After all, they were Oklahoma's best band.

Then, they have interviews with two bands called Avail and Zoinks. This seems like a waste of space to me, considering these guys *aren't even on MTV* so who the hell cares? These morons also talk bad about the Voodoo Glow Skulls. I bought their first album, "Baile De Los Locos" a month ago after seeing the "Bulletproof" video. Even though I haven't listened to any other songs on the album, I showed the CD to some guys at this party and I think they thought I was pretty punk. Throughout the whole magazine, they also talk about some "Mr. Crispy." The only thing I've heard about those guys is that they worship Satan and sell crack!

There's also pictures of people making obscene gestures all through the magazine and they use the F-word often. My mom was doing her monthly search through my room for pornos and she found U.S. Trash and started looking at it. She makes me go to a psychologist now and I had to have a long talk with her and explain that I only listen to *Christian* punk rock. Let me tell you this- U.S. Trash is definatly no Rolling Stone! They claim to be one of those "punk zines," but not once in the whole zine do they even mention Rancid or Offspring! What a joke!--Milton

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For the past week it's been cold and rainy, a gloomy fog enveloping the sky with gray bleakness. I hate this type of weather. The mood it puts me in is kind of hard to explain. I feel, not depressed, but dreary. I get aggravated easily and my whole outlook seems to take a turn downward. The forecast is calling for a few more days of this constant shade, and I don't know if I can take it.

For the first few days I was content. I wasn't bothered by the constant dampness of the streets or the incessant drizzle that flaked upon my windshield. It wasn't until the third day that I started to get uneasy. I began yearning for those days of sunshine and brightness, the days that I could walk outside and be completely energized just by the illumination of the world. Unlike many people I know, I don't see comfort in darkness. Darkness is depressing. And I don't want to be depressed. Screw wearing black and listening to industrial.

Happiness, now that's where it's at. What's the fun in being alive if all you do is sit around and complain about how bad things are. There's a time for that, but it shouldn't be 24 hours a day. I consider myself optimistic, and I think that's a good thing. When the shit hits the fan I always seem to be able to take it. A lot of people crumble under despair and heartache, which is understandable. But then they don't want to get back up. Fuck that. I say look forward, not back. If something's holding you down you should fight like hell to overcome it. I've seen too many depressed people who could easily pull their life around just wither away. They just don't want try. They seem to like being depressed. It's sad. I wish I could help them. But fuck it. I don't let it get me down. I don't want to be depressed. I don't want to be like them.

When's the sun going to come out again? --MIKE

National government leaders:

President Bill Clinton
c/o White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Senator Jim Inhofe
621 North Robinson
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102

Don Nickles, U.S. Senate
100 N. Broadway
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 20510

Ernest Istook, House of Representatives
5400 N.W. Grand Blvd.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73112

State government leaders:

Governor Frank Keating
State Capitol Building
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

State Senator Mark Snyder
(District 41)
29 West Main
Edmond, Oklahoma 73034

Andy Bass, State Representative
(NW Edmond)
State Capitol, Room 336
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Tony Caldwell, State Representative
(south Edmond)
State Capitol Building, Room 546
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Kevin Cox, State Representatiave
(south Edmond)
State Capitol Building, Room 537-A
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

State government leaders (continued):

Frank Davis, State Representatiave
(north Edmond)
State Capitol Building, Room 509
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Mark Seikel, State Representative
(east of I-35)
State Capitol Building, Room 501
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Leonard Sullivan, State Representative
(far west Edmond)
State Capitol Building, Room 503
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Ray Vaughan, State Representative
(central Edmond)
State Capitol Building, Room 510
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

NEWSPAPERS

Letters to the Editor
Edmond Evening Sun
P.O. Box 2470
Edmond, OK 73083

Letters to the Editor
The Daily Oklahoman
9000 N. Broadway
P.O. Box 25125
Oklahoma City, OK 73125

Washington Post
Letters to the Editor
1150 15th Street N.W.
Washington D.C. 20071

Let your voice be heard!
Speak your mind!
Do your part!
Stand up for what you believe!
Stop being lazy!
Sit up straight!
Don't chew with your mouth open!
Stop talking and
actually do something for once.

Religious Freedom Amendment

U.S. representative Ernest Istook (Republican-Warr Acres) is working on getting his "Religious Freedom Amendment" passed into law. The amendment has a large, mostly Republican following, which made me very suspicious of what exactly was being called for in this amendment. Not to mention, the amendment has the backing of numerous conservative and religious organizations as well. Supporters say, the RFA "would reverse trends of suppressing religious expression, including student-initiated prayers in public schools."

The RFA supports the notion expressed by the First Amendment that says the government should not "control nor compel" religion in America, that it should simply treat it the same way as other forms of speech. That means in public schools, students would be allowed to participate in student-sponsored prayer, but the school itself would not be allowed to compose prayers or compel anyone to participate in them. The RFA makes it very clear that the government may not organize prayers on behalf of the students. Teachers will still not be able to organize, discuss, or encourage any type of religious belief.

If this legislation was made into law (and if it was followed properly by the bible belt school systems), that would mean my fellow students and I would no longer have to be subjected to the Christian fliers that are put up monthly with the permission of the school. And if we were still subjected to these fliers, under the rules stated in the amendment, we would in turn be able to post our own fliers (which they do not allow us to now) because it clearly states in the Amendment summary, "The government shall not deny equal access to a benefit on account of religion."

This past year, when a group of students were holding their annual "Prayer at the Pole" session, it was repeatedly promoted in the morning announcements at school and there were countless fliers posted around the entire school. All of this was done with the school's permission. Under this amendment, if the school continued to hold Prayer at the Pole, they would also be required to allow us to have our own annual meeting, complete with messages on the morning

announcements and an abundance of fliers for every wall in the school. Can you imagine "Punk at the Pole"?

Another point of the amendment is that a single objector (or a small number) could no longer censor the religious speech of the students, as long as they are not encouraged to join in such speech. In turn, a large group of students could not censor the religous speech of a small group of students. The RFA follows the same standard which the U.S. Supreme Court has applied to the Pledge of Allegiance: No student is compelled to participate, but they are not permitted to silence their classmates simply because they disagree.

I am in support of this amendment. Some people believe students should not be allowed to pray at school or discuss religion at school. I remind those people that if you look too far to the left, you find yourself on the right. Is your hatred or dislike towards religion so great that you would sacrifice your freedom of speech? Do you really want a government that has so much control over your life that it can prohibit you from practicing your religion in a public place? I do not like any of the religions that I have been exposed to so far, and I do not care to have those pushed on me by other students. But, I would rather be subjected to other students pushing their beliefs on me (as long as I can push back) than live under the rule of a government that has excessive control over our lives. --Matt

would greatly diminish demand for corn grown in Chiapas. Corn is the most important product Indians in Chiapas have to offer. Without it, they would become even more impoverished then before. Since the United States was turning it's back to the injustices of the PRI, The Zapatistas stepped into action. They had long since learned that it was impossible to make demands with their vote. Now it was time for them to make their demand using force. On Jan 1, 1994, The Zapatistas invaded and took power of San Cristobal, Mexico. From that point forward, the Indians refused to be pushed into the corner of their country and left for dead among disease and famine. They refused to be ignored by a government who filled out their vote ballots for them. If the rest of the world was going to ignore the atrocities their government committed on a daily basis, they were going to change it themselves, or die trying.

With the most recent massacre, the world's eyes have been opened to what is going on in Mexico. Now is the best time to make a difference. Write letters to President Clinton and your local Congressmen, and demand that the U.S. end all trade with Mexico until they clean up their act. The one way to talk the Mexican Government into playing fair is to stick it to them where it hurts most- the pocketbook . Many of the weapons the Mexican military used to destroy villages inhabitated by the Indians were given to them by none other than the United States. Write your congressmen and president and tell them this is not acceptable. In light of these recent incidents, they will be paying attention to what the people want to see done more than ever (remember, your congressmen want to make you happy, that way you vote for them). No more trade or support to Mexico, until we see a true democracy.--Matt

Zapatistas.

Indians Working Towards Revolution In Mexico

Mexico has never been a truly Democratic nation. The country's ruling party for nearly a century, the PRI, has probably never won an election without tampering with the voting process. The military is often ordered by the PRI to turn their guns on their own nation's citizens. The most recent such event took place on Dec. 22, when 45 Indians were slaughtered by the machine guns of paramilitary troops in the state of Chiapas. The people killed were mostly women and children. They were suspected of supporting Pro-Indian rebels, also known as Zapatistas. Despite attempts at a cover up, the press in Mexico discovered that Mexican human rights agency officials had previous knowledge of the attack. Chiapas Governor Julio Cesar Ruiz Ferro stepped down from his position after it was discovered that he too, had prior knowledge of the attack.

Why would the corrupt Mexican government feel the need to commit such a horrible crime? Because the only true threat to their power is the Zapatistas. Indians make up a large part of the rebel group. Much like the Indians of the United States, when Spanish "explorers" began to journey across the lands the Indians called home, back in the early 1500's, the Indians were massacred. The land they inhabited was claimed in the name of Spain and their possesions were stolen or destroyed. From that point forward, Indians would live in famine and disease with little land, while Latinos in Mexico would live in much more favorable conditions. The seeds of rebellion in Mexico were planted very early. As the PRI came into rule without any chance for Indians to vote for themselves, the Indians began to get fed up with the unfairness of their "Democratic" government. The government that left many of it's own people to die from disease, when there was plenty of medicine for everyone. The government that murders it's own people.

A group of mostly Indians formed which makes up what is now known as the Zapatistas. They began gathering supplies and weapons whenever possible. They wanted to defend their people and when the time was right, overthrow the tyrannical government that made the lives their people a living hell. That time turned out to be right on the early moments of January 1, 1994. That date was not chosen by chance. That was the day which the North American Free Trade Agreement was to go into effect. You many remember the controversy over NAFTA, regarding the loss of jobs inthe U.S. and such. The real controversy over NAFTA was left unnoticed by most of the press in the United States. Our government turned a blind eye as the Mexican government claimed it had been reformed and was ready for the partnership. At this time, the PRI had just recently taken most of it's campaign funding from drug runners. The PRI sent the military into hospitals to gun down suspected rebel supporters and their families as they lie in bed. Not exactly as reformed as they'd like us to believe. The United States claimed not to know about these and other such injustices commited by the Mexican Government. Bill Clinton pushed the NAFTA agreement and soon, it was to begin, on January 1, 1994.

The Indians in Chiapas had personal reasons to oppose NAFTA. It would allow American wheat harvesters to send wheat down through Mexico, which

U.S. Trash Music News

Smarty Pants have gained quite a following in Europe. Their track on a compilation CD has been getting extensive airplay on European radio. They are currently contemplating an offer to tour the country.

Screeching Weasel has re-released their first album on UML. They plan to tour, too. Ben Weasel made $75,000 last year, from Lookout alone! He should have that house he's been wanting in no time as long as he keeps the albums coming.

Sick of It All signed to Fat.

Mr. Crispy's Christmas tour to Texas came to a screeching halt in Ardmore, Oklahoma. Car problems left the boys stranded there long enough to nearly go off the deep end. Oh well, that's life. There's ups, there's downs, and there's lots of boring stuff in between.

The U.S. Trash staff voted OMC best band of the year.

Here's a list of bands that are/might be/could possibly be coming to OKC in the very near future-Against All Authority, Blanks 77, The Business, Dropkick Murphys, NOFX, Snuff, Rancid (woo-hoo!), The Misfits, and Vanilla Ice (really).

The thrill of having a new place to have shows came to an end when the owners of The Metro got a visit from the cops during the all-locals show on Dec. 27. Details are sketchy, but apparently the building isn't up to fire codes or some shit like that. Maybe after some revisions it will be ready for shows.

Max from Spazz has taken over on drums for Capitalist Casualties.

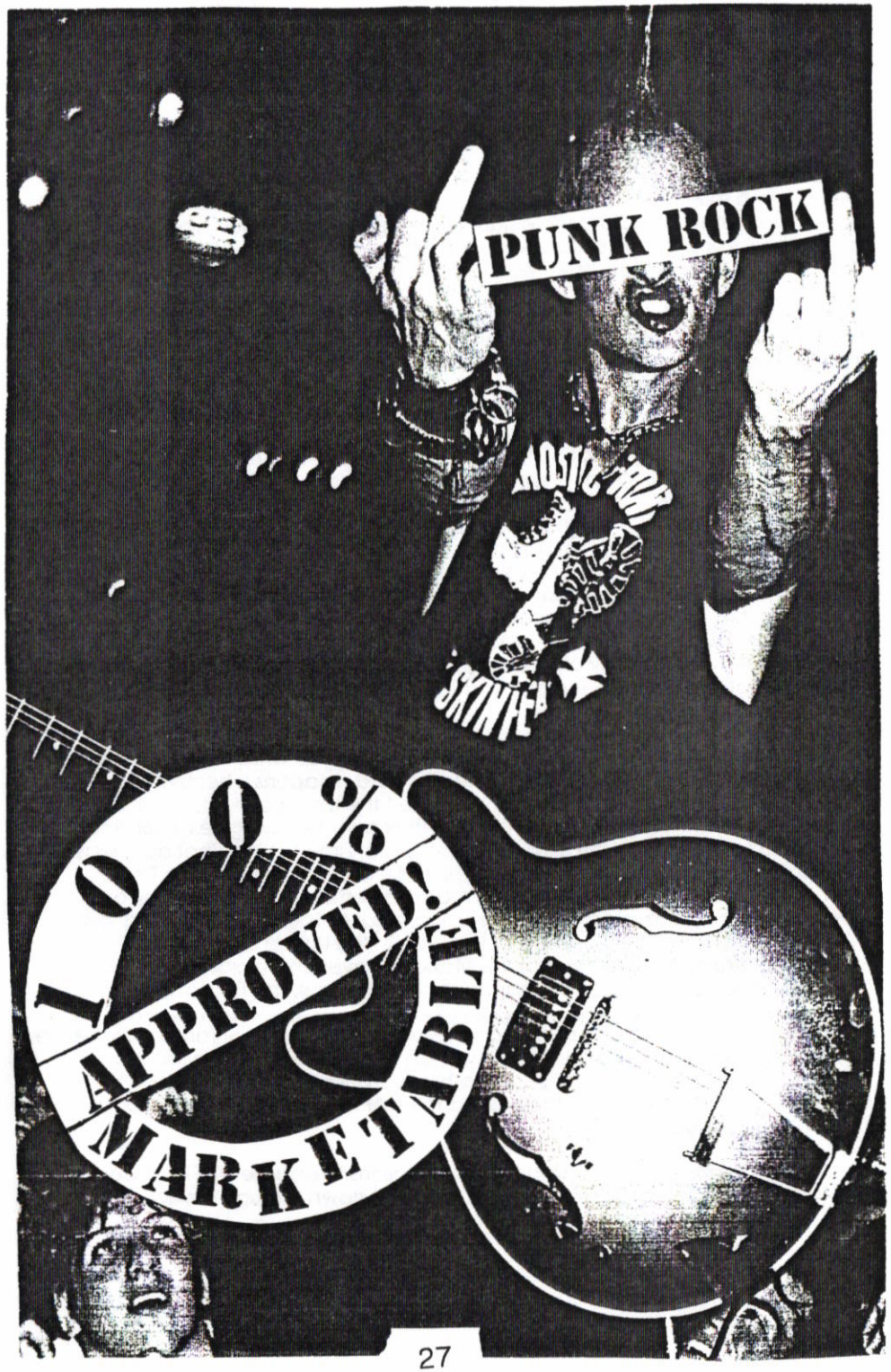
U.S. Troops or U.S. Trash?

My friend Brandon and I stood outside the strip shopping mall and talked with the owner of the T-shirt store about what his life was like back in California. Three doors down, the door swung open and a man stepped out wearing full military outfit. A recruiter. I cringed. I'd probably talked to him on the phone before. The guy we were talking to asked, "Did you reel any in today?" The military guy walked down to us and notified us that he got a couple of kids signed up. He started looking at Brandon and just when I thought he was going to make a comment about Brandon's style of dress, he said, pointing to his hat, "Wow, Dead Kennedys! I've got their first record!" Jello would be proud, I'm sure.

The military seems like a topic that is always hotly debated in one way or another. I'm far from being a mastermind of military philosophy or what have you, but I can certainly discuss how the military relates to me. First off, no, I don't think our U.S. troops are trash. I don't think any group of people is trash. Making generalizations about all military personel isn't much different than making generalizations about all punks or all hardcore kids or all...well you get the picture. My stepbrother was in the military, and I care about my stepbrother a lot. He's a good guy. I wish I had transcripts of all the stories he told me about boot camp and training because they were some of the original reasons I turned against the military. This was back when I didn't know Propagahndi from Primus and didn't know what punk was, but had a glaring suspicion that it had something do with Marilyn Manson.

My step brother would come home from the military for the holidays and then the stories would begin. He would tell us about how the commanding officers didn't care about him or anyone else. They told these kids they "didn't give two shits if they lived or died," and soon my step brother found out that they weren't kidding. I was told of numerous times where someone was severly injured or killed in an usually preventable accident and the victim was then the butt of sick jokes by the senior officers. One kid walked through an airplane propeller. Jokes were being made about it later that day. I'm sorry if I don't get too excited when I'm presented with the opportunity to serve my country. The way military leaders treat their soldiers seems to mirror the way that most politicians think of common citizens of the U.S. -They really don't care what happens to us, we are merely subjects here to complete their task for them, and they will subject us to whatever they feel is necessary to achieve their goal, with absolute disregard to our welfare. Sound appealing? You like being exploited, don't you?

"Protect and serve." What exactly does that mean anyway? Well, many times, when it comes time to protect and serve, you might just be killing people. But not to worry, you'll only kill foriegners. We all know that the only people who matter are



Are your clothes making a statement, or do you just wish they were?

Punk rockers. Stereotypically covered in patches, piercings, spikes, and funny haircuts. When you present yourself like that, you might as well be saying to the average person, "Don't listen to what I have to say." Your opinion is instantly worthless to the 98 percent of the population who don't know Discharge from Discount. The argument for punks dressing in their alienating fashion is that they don't feel the need to adhere to social standards. Wearing a spiked jacket or coloring their hair is their way of showing their dislike for the standards society has set. (I'll give them the benifit of the doubt and say it is *not* about fashion) The only problem is, that everyone outside the punk rock fantasy world doesn't see it that way. They see freaks, hooligans, drug pushers, and satan worshippers. Remember, the average American watches five hours of TV a day and is materialistic and dumb. I'm sorry, it's true.

That's why the government can so easily convince them that they are doing good for the country. That's why corporations can so easily convince them to buy their overpriced products. That's why a good part of the population don't care what happens in the world around them, as long as they can sit back and watch the super bowl. A good percentage of the people in this country live in a television induced trance. They believe everything they've seen on TV is right, ranging from someone who doesn't know the bible from the VCR manual, but claims to be Christian, to someone who watched the Gulf War on CNN and cheered at the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people like it was a football game. Now, if you're trying to get through to someone like this, to try to get them to have a thought not implanted by TV for the first time, if they see you as a freak, they won't pay attention. They'll flip the channel. "Rush Limbaugh's in syndication, isn't he funny? *He* doesn't dress like a freak."

If your goal is simply to be different through style of dress and the music you listen to, that's great. I congratulate you on not being one of the sheep that buys up any CD they see on MTV because they think it will make them cool. But that's probably all you'll ever accomplish. If you truly believe in something and want to see it accomplished, you'll lose the spikes, the leather jacket, the "Fuck Censorship" T-shirt. Cause with all that extra baggage, you just put yourself at a disadvantage. You're just giving the average person a reason to ignore what you have to say, no matter how much sense it makes. Life does not begin and end with the punk rock world. Stop preaching to the converted and start trying to show people in the rest of the world what a wonderful life it is, when you can think for youself.--Matt

Americans and the only time anyone else matters is when they're on our side (at least you should know that, since you've been brainwashed to believe it since birth).

A former student at my school payed a visit to my English class the other day, he was decked out in his military uniform. The first thing he announced to the class was that he learned how to kill people over fifty different ways. He was beaming with pride as he repeated it several times, making sure everyone heard. He went into detail about all the kinds of guns and explosives he got to use. In other words, his training taught him how to kill human beings (and nothing could have thrilled him more).Our country is turning loose blood thristy kids with all kinds of high-tech weaponry. Good strategy, huh? I'm sure not *all* the kids in the military are like that, but the military does seem to attract many kids with an affinity for violence.

These are the reasons the military doesn't appeal to me. I have nothing against people who go into the military. I don't understand their decision, but if I held something against every person who disagreed with me about one issue, I'd have no friends. I just don't see why anyone would have the desire to learn how to kill people. I just don't see why someone would put their lives in the hands of people who don't care the least bit about their welfare. I don't understand why someone would want to join an organization where you must do anything they order you to do, or risk being punished for it. I don't like killing, and it seems to me the military's primary purpose is to teach how to kill. I don't see why anyone would want to be a part of that.-Matt

The Ethics of Hunting

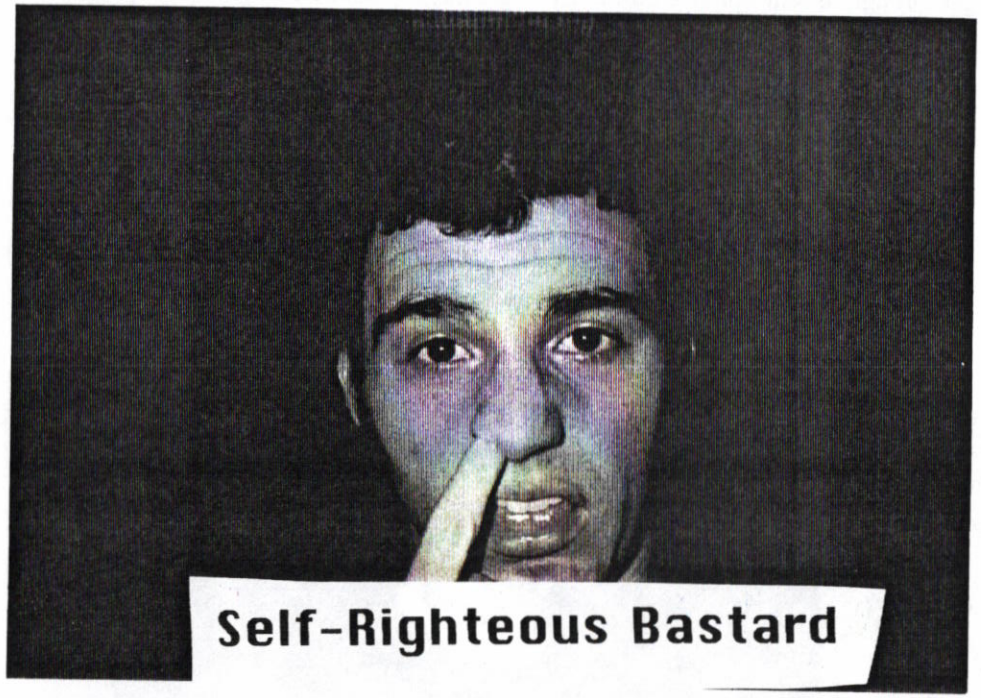
by Matt

Over the past hundred years, hunting has gone from a necessary process of obtaining food to an act which is most often committed strictly for the pleasure of the hunter. The ethics of hunting have always been contemplated by philosophers and naturalists, and even by the hunters themselves. Naturalist Joesph Wood Krutch once asked of hunters,"Why is it when man wantonly destroys one of the works of men we call him a vandal, but when man wantonly destroys one of the works of god, we call him a sportsmen?" Krutch was not necessarily using religion to combat hunting, but asking, "Why is it a crime for a man to destroy an object, but yet it is admirable for a man to destroy a living creature?" That is one of the many questions people pose to hunters about their hobby. In these next few pages, I will try to take the arguments from a variety of hunters and point out the falsehoods and inaccuracies that lead me to believe that hunting is unnecessary and cruel.

Hunters are quick to point out the so called "laws of nature."Hunters typically use phrases like "kill or be killed" or "only the strong survive" to justify their killing of animals. To that one must wonder, exactly how strong would these hunters be without their weapons? "Only the strong survive" sounds fair to me, but it's not quite so fair when the predator carries a gun. It's funny how the laws of nature can be stretched to include the use of firearms and other manmade weapons. Many hunters claim to be part of the great natural system of predator and prey. Once again, another invalid assumption. In nature, the animals that fall prey to predators are the older animals or the sick or unfit animals. In contrast, human hunters try and kill only the strongest animals, leaving the gene pool watered down and causing upcoming generations of animals to be weaker.(Pacelle pg.7)

Many hunters feel hunting is a way of getting back to nature and reverting back to a more naturalistic lifestyle. Camoflauged hunters make their way into the forest armed to the teeth with guns, binoculars, and other equipment, and they claim they are getting back to a more naturalistic lifestyle? You could have fooled me. Of course there are plenty of other ways to enjoy nature without killing animals. Millions of people enjoy nature by hiking, bird watching, and photography. Author David E. Newton stated, "If the real joy of hunting is contact with nature, why don't hunters shoot animals with cameras instead of guns?"I have no doubt that some hunters genuinely care for nature, but it's hard to understand the logic of a group of people who express their love for wildlife by killing it. Hunters often play down the actual killing of animals. For example, one hunter is documented as saying,"The actual killing part is only a small part of the hunting experience." The killing part happens to be quite a large part of the experience for the animal.

Mmm...a half wrapped sandwich. I bet that's fresh! The Miscellaneous Deli picture ended up being out of focus. Damn.



Self-Righteous Bastard

Crest Grocery Store-
Rotten Meat and Rotten Rent-a-Cops

We at U.S. Trash recieved an inside tip from an employee at Crest that the meat they sell may not exactly be up to Health Department standards. We decided to dig deeper into this problem. Our inside source described the meat as "not good" and said that managment instructs her and the other workers to leave the food out after it's experation date has expired. We paid several visits to the store, each time there were countless expired deli products for sale. You had to dig into the back to find any products with experation dates even close to being considered fresh. After a few of these such findings, we decided to ask to speak to the manager. He was a kind man, and he was very apologetic about the problems we had discovered. He promised it wouldn't happen again. We weren't sure whether he was being sincere or if that was just his standard line to a complaint he might recieve on a daily basis.

Regardless, we came back three days later to see if he had made good on his promise. This time we brought a camera to take pictures of any unhealthy looking products we came across. Upon arrival in the deli department, it appeared they had done some major cleaning out of expired foods. We didn't find one product that was past it's experation date. We did find a group of products that had *no experation date*. It was impossible to tell how long they had been there, but we had seen them on each one of our previous visits. They were containers filled with a mysterious white product, slightly resembling a more watery potato salad. These containers were marked "Miscellaneous Deli," which gives the consumer absolutly no idea of what could possibly be in this product. You might argue that anyone who is dumb enough to buy something with no experation date that is described as "Miscellaneous Deli" deserves to be poisoned by whatever spoiled filth lies inside. But, we at U.S. Trash look out for the dumb people. We took a picture of the Miscellaneous Deli and a picture of a half saran wrapped sandwich.

We started to leave with our pictures, content that at least progress had been made. We had made a difference. The shelves were nearly free of the rotten food they were once filled with. Then, we were stopped at the door by a security guard, and a lady that had been following discreetly behind us now stepped forward and said "These boys were taking pictures in my meat department, and I want to know why!" The security guard got right in my face, "Were you taking pictures?! What are you taking pictures for?!" His breath smelled like ass. I calmly explained to him that I take picture lots of places. "Well you can't take pictures at Crest!" he said. I told him I was unaware of this rule and suggested that if it was such a big problem, he might want to put a sign on the door asking people not to take pictures. He didn't like the idea and told me if I didn't leave, he would arrest me. I glanced at his crusty iron-on security guard patch and smirked. We left, after my first real case of rent-a-cop harrassment. The fact that I nearly got "arrested" for taking pictures of the deli, just makes me wonder why they were so defensive. I wonder if they really threw all those expired meat products away, or if they just repackaged them, like our inside source suggested. I guess the consumer will never know, that is until their entire family gets sick from food poisoning. Anyone who has worked in food service will tell you- health codes are no joke. If you are buying your deli products at Crest, you could be taking a serious risk.-Matt

Another argument from hunters is that most people eat meat, so how is it any less moral to kill your own food? Rarely, if ever do modern day hunters hunt solely in order to get food. If hunters have enough money to buy a gun, they have enough money to go to the grocery store and buy their food. Hunters do not put up the arguments they do against anti-hunters because they need food, they do it because they enjoy killing animals.Studies show that about 80 percent of Americans approve of hunting as a way to get food, but 80 percent disapprove of hunting purely as a sport.(Newton pg. 100) When hunters go into the enviornment and kill some of the strongest animals of a species, it has a devastating effect on the species' gene pool.

The question of how humane hunting is should also be brought into the discussion. A study conducted in Texas over a fifteen year period shows that when hunting with arrows, only 50 percent of deer that were hit were killed immediatly. 90 percent of those shot with bullets were killed immediatly. For those that were not killed immediatly, many retreated into the woods to suffer for days or even weeks before dying.(NRA pg.3)

In most discussions I have with hunters, they use possible overpopulation of animals in their defense of hunting. After researching the topic, it became apparent that the threats of animal overpopulation are minimal in most cases. Deer overpopulation has been in the news often lately, however. Deer are causing auto accidents and venturing into urban areas. The ironic thing is, a good part of taxes from hunting licenses go directly towards deer breeding grounds! Hunters are simultaneously "solving the problem" and fueling it! If hunters are prevented from killing "surplus" animals, then the weakest animals from each species will die off just as nature intended, even if a lack of predators causes disease or famine to kill them off. If hunters take it upon themselves to kill off the surplus animals, many of the animals they kill will be the stronger animals of the species. This will cause the next generation of the species to be weaker.

Recent scientific studies show that hunters have been killing off more than surplus animals. Black Bear, Mountain Lion, and Bighorn Sheep are just a few of the species of animals that experts feel will soon be doomed to extinction because of hunting.(Conner pg.96) Here's another sad statistic: The number of migratory birds dropped 30 percent from 1970 to 1980. If the number continues to go down at even half that rate, many species of birds will soon become extinct. Experts believe the decrease is due to hunting.(Williams pg.124)

Many hunting organizations claim to "donate" large amounts of money for the preservation of nature. It is simple fact that nearly all of these "contributions" come from taxes on hunting licenses, duck stamps, and ammunition, not from the goodness of their hearts as the organizations would have you believe. Most hunters discussion and actions to preserve wildlife really

preserve nothing but their opportunity to kill animals. This would explain why a good portion of hunters' tax dollars go right back into animal breeding grounds, despite the fact that hunters use animal overpopulaton as a primary reason for hunting.

Hunting organizations say it is "idealistic and foolish" to believe that a ban on hunting would make animals lives any better. 25 million rabbits were killed last year. 50 million doves were killed last year. 4 million deer were killed last year.(U.S Dept.) Those numbers don't make it seem quite so idealistic and foolish, do they? For a non-hunter, it's hard to fathom the mind that enjoys killing living creatures. Some consider it almost a slap in the face to hear someone who loves to kill animals discuss how much they love nature. I have no doubt in my mind that some hunters have good intentions, it's very possible to consider that someone might be misinformed or they might just see things in a different light.It seems to me when you weigh out all the hunters reasons and excuses with facts and logic, only one reason is left standing- hunters kill animals for enjoyment. Our society is becoming less and less tolerant of such behavior. Leonardo Da Vinci once said, "The time will come when men such as I will look upon the murder of animals as they now look upon the murder of men." I hope that time comes soon.

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Look Ma, I did research!

Highlights From 4th Street

bus and snackin on the good ole' deli tray. I didn't count, but I recall him telling us how cool it was to be chillin' with us numerous times. But that's something between him and us. Because do you think they'll ever admit how cool they think we really are? And while you are sending your PUNK BUCKS to Probe Records for the infamous 7" ask them if the proceeds are really going towards the AIDS foundation. Because even us ignorant, money hungry fools know that AIDS is not a joke.

Well there you have it! I don't know about you, but after he suggested that doing heroin causes people to be homosexual, I kind of had a hard time taking anything else he said seriously. I think when he said "We don't do heroin (unlike Hickey)," he maybe should have said, "we don't do heroin (unlike Epitaph owner Brett Gurewitz)." Hickey doesn't do heroin, because you need money *to buy* heroin. You can try to pick and choose when you think he's telling the truth or not. I'm not completly sure about the situation myself. I appreciate the time he took to answer my questions. I don't appreciate his homophobic bullshit. I wonder what his friends Propagandhi and Fifteen would think of it.-Matt

Frank: Look, when we confronted Hickey we had more than several chances to do bodily harm to them. That's not our style of handling petty problems like that. Even though the phone threats on the 7" appear to be convincing at first, anyone with half a brain could tell that I was obviously intoxicated and not making any sense. I was in Amsterdam for the first time and got Hickey's number from a mutual friend. I just happened to get the number at a time of heavy celebration. I'm sure several can relate to what I'm saying. Besides, everyone knows that death/phone threats mean nothing unless carried out physically. They are the ones that committed a crime by stealing the trumpet, not us!

UST: You mention on more than one occasion in the recordings that you guys are gaining increased popularity and more money through you music. Is that what you guys set out to do when you started the band?

Frank: The reason why I mention popularity and money so much on the recording is because most people have this silly idea that all bands on Epitaph get everything handed to them on a silver platter. When Hickey was on stage they were mocking us and they kept on insisting that Epitaph pays for our tour bus and deli trays. They don't, we do! The Offspring and Rancid are rich, we aren't. We have seven guys and a small crew that rely on the well-being of our band. We take shit VERY seriously. Like I wrote in the previous letter, this is all we do for a living now. At first we started playing for fun and the name of PUNK. At that time we were young and could afford to live at home. Now, almost ten years later, our band is our only source of income. I am 30 years old with a family and this is all I do. We aren't teeenagers anymore!!

UST: Don't you think that Hickey should be allowed to give their opinion on stage, as long as you guys had a chance to defend yourselves when you were on stage?

Frank: People/bands are entitled to do whatever they want on stage. And sure we have our chance in the spotlight, too. It's not a competition to see who can slag each others band while they're on stage. Bands are supposed to help each other out. It's not easy to get a gig at the last minute with a semi-popular band like VGS. It took us a lot of work to lay down a steady foundation for ourselves. We got that way by helping bands like Hickey out and receiving help from bands as well. That's a big part of getting a good reputation for your band.

UST: What do you say to people who are no longer fans of your band because of this incident?

Frank: We don't really care if we turned people off by this. As far as we are concerned we're still helping those guys out as we speak. If they hadn't released that 7" with our name on it, they probably wouldn't have sold as many as they have. As a matter of fact, the person who wrote the column in you zine probably had never heard of Hickey until the split with VGS (*That's really very far from the truth-Matt*). The thing that I find funniest of all is, a week or so before that night, we were playing in Eugene, Oregon at a place called W.O.W. Hall. It's definitely NOT a punk place!! Matty from Hickey was there and hangin' out with us on the tour

More Government Lies

The Civil Division of the U.S. Department of Justice denied in a recently released legal brief that there was any cover-up surrounding the death of former federal inmate Kenneth Trentadue. The U.S. Bureau of Prisons still maintains that Trentadue's death during his stay at the Federal Transfer Center in OKC was a suicide. Trentadue sustained three massive blows to the head, a slit throat, and bruises covering nearly his entire body. His cell was only accessible to Federal Transfer Center personnel. Trentadue's relatives have hired a lawyer to try to get to the bottom of the case.

Despite recently released photographs that show Trentadue's body beaten and bloody-not the typical suicide-the Trentadue family has run into a brick wall with goose stepping authority figures. In addition to the state's negligent investigations into the case, Justice Department officials have not complied with a federal court order to turn over all Trentadue-related documents by Dec. 5. Previously, we reported to you that a grand jury probe into the case came to the conclusion that there was no evidence that Trentadue was murdered.

Yet another interesting bit of incriminating information about the case was found on EMSA phone logs. They show that there was a call from the FTC early on the day of Aug. 21, 1995. The call was a request for the paramedics to come and treat Trentadue. Upon arrival, FTC officials turned the ambulance away and did not let them see Trentadue. Hours later, they called again to have the Ambulance return. This time, Trentadue was dead. FTC officials also refused to let a state medical examiner's investigator examine Trentadue's cell the morning of his death. The medical examiner's investigator was not allowed to inspect the cell until four months later. Prison officials also ordered a group of inmates to sanitize Trentadue's cell on the day of Aug. 21. That account has been backed by sworn statements from three people.

Oklahoma County prosecutors and the Senate Judicary Committee plan to look into the case, but only time will tell if justice is ever served. No government official seems to be willing to stand up for what is right in this case. U.S. Senator Don Nickles from Ponca City is the latest lawmaker to get involved in the case surrounding Trentadue's death. Write him and tell him you want to see the people responsible for Trentadue's death be brought to justice. If you want to fight for what you believe, you have to take action however you can. Nobody is going to do it for you. (My source for this article was the Oklahoma Gazette) Write to: Don Nickles, U.S. Senate, 100 N. Broadway, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 20510.

Frank Voodoo: The Man Behind the Myth

The Voodoo Glow Skulls. You either love em' or you hate em,' but no matter what, you have to agree that their dispute with Hickey has been blown way out of proportion. I am as guilty of this as anyone. With this interview with the infamous leader, Frank Casillas(Voodoo), I hope to bury the hatchet once and for all (Unless I get the opportunity to interview Hickey, of course). Surely, by now you have heard the story. Just in case you haven't, I'll give you a short overview.

Hickey made fun of VGS. VGS got mad and kicked Hickey out of the show. All hell broke loose. Hickey took VGS' trumpet. VGS threatened to kill Hickey. Hickey gave the trumpet back. The amount of time I've spent trying to decide who the bad guy is in this situation borders on idiocy. In my mind, I've shamefully compared myself to rabid sports fans who spend their whole lives contemplating which football team is better. Well, I'm not *quite* that bad. At least I recognize my faults. So, without further introduction, I present to you a letter written by Frank Voodoo. You can decide if you think he's sincere or not.

Dear Matt,

Thanks for sending me a copy of your fanzine along with your concerned letter. To be honest with you it's been over two years since the whole incident with Hickey. We have moved on since then, and none of us really think about them at all. But, since you did catch me at a good time during a break from touring, I'll answer your questions and tell you my side of the story. Before I do, let me give a brief history about myself and my band for those who don't know. To be honest with you, most people could have cared less about Hickey, us, and the whole incident. We havent really received any hate mail since then. It's been all good reviews or nothing at all.

VGS have been around since 1988. When we first started touring, we did it like most punk bands did. In a fucked up van, with no money. Since the start of the band we've experienced every angle of the "so-called D.I.Y. punk scene." We have been ripped off by some of your biggest punk rock heroes. For some of the guys in the band, music is all they know. Not too many 17-19 yr. olds have career plans nowadays. So you can bet your sweet ass that $$ starts to play an important role in your life sooner or later. Any band out there that tells you differently is either full of shit or not even worth mentioning. For about 5 years, my band and I opened and ran our own independant punk rock record store. During that time we learned a lot about the way indy labels sell and market (yes, market!!) their music. I also put on several shows at our store with bands you might have heard of: Citizen Fish, The G'Rups, Schlong, Propagandhi, Eye Hate God, Fifteen, Man Is The Bastard, etc. So, I think I qualify as someone who knows his shit when it comes to certain punk morals. Oh, did I mention that a lot

of these folks are still my friends? You see, it's not about who is punker than thou. I just want the few people who care about this thing to recognize where we come from before they dis-own us or whatever. Most people who were into us back in the day have either outgrown punk or just plain and simple don't give a fuck. Unless you or anyone else has walked the walk, then their commentary or whatever will be taken credibly.

Thanks,
Frank Casillas

I'm not sure I believe everything he says, but you have to respect the fact that he at least takes the time to answer his letters. And now for the interview. I'd like to remind you that this was done through the mail, so I had no chance to ask follow up questions.....

UST: On the recordings, you use words like "faggot" and "San Fagcisco." Are you homophobic? If so, does the rest of the band share your views?

Frank: FUCK YES, we are! It's not like we are gay bashers or anything, we just don't believe in that. We have several gay friends who know this and they accept it. I am definitely afraid of another man making sexual advances towards me. It has happened before and I deal with it in a non-violent manner. Gays use the word faggot amongst themselves all the time. Believe me, I know because my wife is a hairstylist as she has gay male friends who I happen to get along with (imagine that!) Can't Hickey or anyone else come up with any stronger reason to claim that we are homophobic? (*Didn't he already admit he was homophobic?-Matt*) All of us are either married or have a steady girlfriend. And we don't do heroin (unlike Hickey) so I think we have slim chances of becoming gay anytime soon. Even though, it is quite trendy to be punk and gay nowadays.

UST: Is it true that you kicked F.Y.P. of the tour after the incident? Why?

Frank: F.Y.P. was one of those bands that we helped out in the past. Todd Congeleire from Recess/F.Y.P. used to come in to the store. We bought tons of records from him and even let him put on his own shows at our record store. He is responsible for getting Hickey on the show that night. They weren't even supposed to play and we opened the doors early for them so they could. We even managed to get them a 100 bucks from a promoter (*hmmm...that's not what everyone else says!-Matt)* Anyway, after Hickey did their token "Look at me, I'm punk rock" routine on stage, all the F.Y.P. guys were right there with them jeering and carrying on about the whole "sellout/rockstar" thing. We didn't really care about that, it just comes with the territory. But, if they really felt that way about us, Epitaph, and our friends Rancid, why were they even there? How many people do you know do things that they don't like voluntarily? We felt that if both bands really felt that way, then they both should leave.

UST: Were you ever actually intending on inflicting bodily harm on the members of Hickey?